

MEDIA RELEASE

Secretary of State's Office • State Capitol • Cheyenne, WY 82002 • 307-777-5333 • Fax: 307-777-6217

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Contact: Peggy Nighswonger, State Elections Director
Phone: 307-777-7186
Fax: 307-777-7640

Voting Information Website

State Capitol - Secretary of State Joe Meyer initiated the 2006 voter education campaign today. Voter education is a required aspect of the Help America Vote Act. As part of the voter education campaign, Secretary Meyer has launched a new website <http://vote.wyoming.gov>. The website is a “one stop shop” for information about voting in Wyoming.

Secretary Meyer also announced a new public education campaign to educate voters on the optical scan voting equipment that all counties in Wyoming are now using. The “Almost Doesn’t Count” campaign is designed to educate and remind voters about the correct way to mark their optical scan ballots. Citizens of Wyoming will hear radio ads, see newspaper ads, and see posters around the state instructing them on the proper way to fill in the ovals on the ballot. The ads show a basketball “almost” making it through the hoop. Voters are reminded that marking the ballot incorrectly, with a check mark or an X, does not count. The oval must be filled in completely to assure that the vote counts.

All counties in Wyoming are now using optical scan ballots. The eight counties who previously used punch card or lever machines to cast ballots will also now use the optical scan ballots. “We want to make sure that voters know what to expect when they go to the polls on Election Day,” said Meyer. “Voters must mark their ballots correctly by filling in the ovals completely so that every vote will count.”

The Help America Vote Act, passed in 2002, required that states upgrade their voting equipment by the first election in 2006. In addition to the optical scan ballots, Wyoming counties now have one piece of electronic voting equipment in each polling place to accommodate persons with disabilities. People who are blind, visually impaired, or who have limited reading ability will be able to cast their ballots electronically by either having the machine show the ballot in large print or by listening to an audio recording of the ballot.

Voters can learn to use the new ballots and the new voting equipment by accessing demonstrations on the <http://vote.wyoming.gov> website. The website also contains other useful information about the election process in Wyoming including voter registration and absentee voting. Voters may also contact their county clerk for a demonstration or explanation of the voting equipment in their county.